

# WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An aqueous composition for oral use comprising:
  - a) an anti-odor and anti-plaque active component selected from the group consisting of an extract of *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, an extract of *Usnea spp.*, an anti-odor and anti-plaque component of said extracts, and mixtures thereof;
  - b) a surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic surfactants and nonionic surfactants and mixtures thereof.
2. An aqueous composition according to claim 1 having a pH less than about 5.
3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said anti-odor and anti-plaque active component of an extract of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* is selected from a group consisting of glabrins, licochaleones, glycyrrhizic acid, glycyrrhetic acid and other flavonoids and coumarins.
4. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said anti-odor and anti-plaque active component of an extract of *Glycyrrhiza glabra* is selected from the group consisting of water-insoluble extracts of *Glycyrrhiza glabra*.
5. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said anti-odor and anti-plaque active component of the extract of *Usnea florida* comprises usnic acid.
6. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said cationic surfactant comprises a pyridinium compound.
7. A composition according to claim 6 wherein said pyridinium compound comprises cetyl pyridinium chloride.
8. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said non-ionic surfactant comprises a poloxamer.
9. A composition according to claim 1 further comprising an oligosaccharide.

10. A composition according to claim 1 or 9 further comprising a divalent metal cation.
11. A composition according to claim 10 wherein said divalent metal cation is selected from the group consisting of copper, zinc, selenium, calcium and magnesium.
12. A composition according to claim 9 wherein said oligosaccharide is selected of the group consisting of fructo oligosaccharides, soy oligosaccharides and inulin.
13. A nonaqueous composition for oral use comprising:
  - a) an anti-odor anti-plaque active component selected from the group consisting of an extract of *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, an extract of *Usnea spp.*, an anti-odor and anti-plaque component of said extract, and mixtures thereof;
  - b) a non-aqueous solubilizing agent.
14. A composition according to claim 13 further comprising a cationic surfactant.
15. A composition according to claim 13, further comprising a nonionic surfactant.
16. A composition according to claim 14 or 15 further comprising an oligosaccharide.
17. A composition according to claim 14 or 15 further comprising a divalent metal cation.
18. A composition according to claim 16 further comprising a divalent metal cation.
19. A composition according to claim 13, 14 or 15 further comprising a waxy carrier.
20. A composition according to claim 16 further comprising a waxy carrier.
21. A composition according to claim 17 further comprising a waxy carrier.
22. A composition according to claim 18 further comprising a waxy carrier.

23. A composition according to claim 13 in the form of a gel.
24. A composition according to claim 13 in the form of a butter.
25. A composition according to claim 13 in liquid form.
26. A buccoadhesive composition for oral use comprising:
  - a) an anti-odor and anti-plaque active component selected from the group consisting of an extract of *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, an extract of *Usnea spp.*, an anti-odor and anti-plaque component of said extracts, and mixtures thereof;
  - b) a bioadhesive gum, polymer, or polysaccharide.
27. A composition according to claim 26 further comprising a cationic surfactant.
28. A composition according to claim 26 further comprising an oligosaccharide.
29. A composition according to claim 26 further comprising a divalent metal cation.
30. A composition according to claim 28 further comprising a divalent metal cation.
31. A chewable composition for oral use, comprising:
  - a) an anti-odor and anti-plaque active component selected from the group consisting of an extract of *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, an extract of *Usnea spp.*, an anti-odor and anti-plaque component of said extracts, and mixtures thereof;
  - b) a chewable polymer, rawhide, casein, protein or carbohydrate matrix.
32. A composition according to claim 31 further comprising a cationic surfactant.
33. A composition according to claim 31 further comprising an oligosaccharide.
34. A composition according to claim 31 further comprising a divalent metal cation.

35. A composition according to claim 33 further comprising a divalent metal cation.
36. A method for reducing plaque formation on tooth enamel, dentine, and soft tissue in the oral cavity comprising the step of contacting said enamel, dentine and tissue with an anti-plaque reducing effective amount of a composition according to claim 1, 13, 26 or 31.